

## **U.S. Department of Energy to Introduce Natural Gas Vehicle Sustainment Plan to Kazakhstan**

The U.S. Department of Energy is hosting a *Clean Cities Transportation Workshop for Almaty*, to be held March 30 and 31, 2011, at the Intercontinental Hotel in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The event is a first step in introducing an implementation roadmap to support a newly developing Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) strategy for Almaty City and Kazakhstan. It also will be used to introduce a wide range of information about NGVs, including Countries and global NGV development, vehicles and fueling segment, and standards and regulations.

### **A Long-Term Plan for Using Natural Gas Vehicles in Kazakhstan**

The U.S. Department of Energy, Argonne National Laboratory, and Clean Fuels Consulting are drawing upon successful Clean Cities programs in other countries in order to develop a plan to sustain natural gas vehicle use in Almaty. Almaty Akimat and Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan officials, as well as KazTransGas, are developing codes and standards for natural gas vehicles and related infrastructure and training.

The U.S. Government's Clean Cities program advances U.S. economic, environmental, and energy security by supporting local decisions to adopt practices that contribute to the reduction of petroleum consumption and carbon emissions. Clean Cities has a network of nearly 100 volunteer coalitions that develop partnerships in the public and private sectors to promote alternative and renewable fuels, fuel economy measures, and emerging technologies.

To develop the plan, the U.S. Department of Energy is compiling input from a range of stakeholders including the Almaty Akimat, KazTransGas, British Gas Kazakhstan (which recently built the first compressed natural gas fuelling station), a variety of the NGV equipment suppliers engaged in the project, local research institutes, and the principal funding institutions, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the United Nations Development Program. The plan will elaborate the stakeholders' various goals, opportunities, and challenges in implementing a long-term NGV program. Such a strategic plan is an established mechanism that describes the steps that an organization must take to achieve certain outcomes and goals. It clearly outlines links among tasks and priorities for action in the near-, medium- and long-term, and includes milestones to allow stakeholders to track the progress of program implementation.

### **Two Hundred Compressed Natural Gas Buses are a First Step to a Larger NGV Program**

Almaty ElectroTrans (AET), the municipal bus company, will deploy 200 new compressed natural gas-fueled buses throughout 2011, supported by a USD35 million loan from European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The first 20 buses were delivered in December 2010, in time to be used for the Asian Winter Games. The balance of 180 buses is anticipated to be in service during the second quarter of 2011. AET awarded the bus contract to Zhengzhou Yutong, a Chinese company that uses Cummins-Westport, Inc. Compressed Gas Plus natural gas engines. British Gas completed a filling station for the buses in July 2010, which uses Dresser Wayne compressors. More filling stations are planned for the city by KazTransGas, a distribution-focused subsidiary of national oil and gas company Kazmuniagas, with the hope that private bus operators and other fleet operators see the benefit of this new, cleaner transportation

technology. Once the pilot program is launched successfully in Almaty, the gas company plans to create a network of compressed natural gas stations that will serve up to 50,000 NGVs in Kazakhstan.

Cooperation between the U.S. and Kazakhstan in the transport sector is a new initiative of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Energy Partnership, which was established in 2001 and is currently chaired by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman and Minister of Oil and Gas Sauat Mynbayev.

Manufacturers and suppliers interested in this emerging natural gas vehicle market should contact Marcy Rood Werpy at [mroodwerpy@anl.gov](mailto:mroodwerpy@anl.gov) or Dr. Jeff Seisler at [jseisler@cleanfuelsconsulting.org](mailto:jseisler@cleanfuelsconsulting.org).

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